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# ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR

1937

BY

J. R. GARROOD

M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the Huntingdon Rural  
District Council.



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PRINTED BY W. H. SMITH & SON, LTD., HIGH STREET.



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**Public Health Officers of the Huntingdon Rural  
District Council.**

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*Part time Medical Officer :* J. R. GARROOD, M.D., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector :* W. MIDWOOD, C.R.S.I.

*Part time Analytical Chemist :* SOLOMON GREENBURGH, ESQ.

*Pathologist :* DR. HARVEY.

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**To the  
Huntingdon Rural District Council.**

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*Alconbury Hill.*

*Gentlemen,*

*I beg to submit my Annual Report for the  
year 1937.*

*I am,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

*J. R. GARROOD.*

**REPORT**  
ON THE  
**HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1937.**

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**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF  
THE AREA.**

The Area of the 33 Parishes forming the Huntingdon Rural District is 69,937 acres, and the population is 6,939. This is the resident population. It represents 1 person to 10 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,958.

The rateable value is £19,500.

The sum represented by a 1d. rate is £80.

The population of the District consists largely of agricultural labourers, small tradesmen, and farmers with their families, but there is an increasing number of persons whose work lies in the neighbouring towns and outside the area. Factories at Huntingdon employ a number of the younger women as well as some men.

An Aerodrome at Upwood has introduced a non-civilian element into the population.

A considerable number of those who are employed by others in agriculture or otherwise, have allotments or other land which they work themselves, as do a large number of the tradesmen.

Unemployment is not very prevalent.

Agriculture, necessitating as it does considerable exposure, may be considered an exciting cause of chronic rheumatism and bronchitis, which are common in the elderly.

**STATISTICS.**

Live Births—		Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	...	85	41	44	Birth Rate per 1000
Illegitimate	...	4	1	3	12.8
					England & Wales 14.9
Still Births	Legitimate	4	2	2	Rate per 1000 births



			Total	M.	F.
<b>Deaths</b>	...	...	90	52	38

Corrected death rate  
per 1,000 pop. 10.4  
England and Wales 12.4

Deaths from Puerperal causes— Deaths.

Puerperal sepsis	...	...	0
Other puerperal causes	...	...	0
Total	...	...	0

England & Wales 3.23

Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	33.7
This compares with England and Wales	...	...	...	58
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	35.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 12

This is 1.7 per 1000 pop.

Deaths from Measles	(all ages)	0
„	Whooping Cough	0
„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT, 1937.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes	52	38
Influenza		2
Tuberculosis Respiratory	4	2
Cancer	6	6
Diabetes		1
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	1	3
Heart disease	12	8
Other Circulatory Disease	3	4
Bronchitis	1	
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	2
Other Respiratory disease	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	
Appendicitis	1	1
Other digestive disease	3	
Ac. & chron. nephritis	2	1
Congen. deb. premature birth, etc.	2	
Senility	2	3
Suicide	2	
Other violence	4	
Other defined disease	5	4

There are 6 fewer births and no more deaths than last year.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

**Public Health Officers of the Authority.**—One part time Medical Officer of Health, who holds the D.P.H. One whole time Sanitary Inspector who holds the certificate of the Sanitary Institute and is also Inspector under Shops Acts and Food and Meat Inspector.

**Ambulances.**—An ambulance is kept by the County Council in Huntingdon and another is kept at the Isolation Hospital.

The County Council has reorganised district nursing in conjunction with the district associations. Owing to the scattered nature of the population of this district a good deal of the nurses' time is spent in getting from place to place, and this is nearly as expensive as nursing.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water Supply.**—A piped supply has been provided for the greater part of the Riptons, Raveleys, Upwood, the Stukleys, Alconburys, and Upton, as well as the Aerodromes at Upwood and Wyton. The scheme for Brampton has not been commenced as yet. There is scope for improvement in water supplies in the greater part of the rest of the district, particularly at the Green End, Sawtry. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are being made every three months or less. The results have been satisfactory.

PARISH.	QUANTITY AND SOURCE.		QUALITY.	ANALYSIS OR NOT
Abbots Ripton ...	One Pump from two Wells	insufficient	Not Good	No.
Alconbury ...	Two Pumps from Wells	sufficient	Satisfactory	No.
Alconbury Weston	Two Pumps from Wells	sufficient	Doubtful	No.
Barham ...	Pond and Well	not used	Not used.	
Woolley ...	One Pump from Well	sufficient	Poor ...	No.
Brampton ...	Private supplies	sufficient	Unreliable	No.
Buckworth ...	Three Wells	sufficient	Good ...	No.
Conington ...	One Pump, Well and Pond	sufficient	Fair ...	No.
Upton ...	One Pump, Well and Pond	sufficient	Doubtful	No.
Coppingford ...	One Pump, Well and Pond	sufficient	Doubtful	No.
Easton ...	One Pump and Well	sufficient	Good ...	No.
Ellington ...	Three Pumps from Wells	sufficient	Two Good 1 doubtful	No.
Upwood ...	Two Pumps from Wells	sufficient	Not Good	No.
Little Raveley ...	One Pump from Well and Pond	sufficient	Poor ...	No.
Great Raveley ...	One Pump from Wells	sufficient	2nd quality	No.
Great Stukeley ...	Private supplies	insufficient	Varies ...	No.
Little Stukeley ...	Three Pumps from Wells	sufficient	2nd quality	No.
Hamerton ...	One Pump and one Pond	sufficient	Poor ...	No.
Steeple Gidding	One Pond	sufficient	Poor ...	No.
Kings Ripton ...	One Well	insufficient	Saline ...	No.
Leighton ...	Three Pumps from Wells	sufficient	Good ...	No.
Sawtry All Saints & St. Andrew	Reservoir and Pump	sufficient	Good ...	No.
Sawtry St. Judith	Private supplies	insufficient	Poor ...	No.
Spaldwick ...	Two Pumps from Wells	sufficient	Good ...	No.
Woodwalton ...	Two Pumps from Ponds and Wells	sufficient	One Good One Bad	No.
Great Gidding ...	One Pump from Well	sufficient	Fair ...	No.
Little Gidding ...	One Well	sufficient	Fair ...	No.
Winwick ...	One Pump from Pond	sufficient	Poor ...	No.
Old Weston ...	Two Wells	sufficient	Good ...	No.
Brington ...	One Pump from Well: Standpipe from Well	One sufficient	One Good 1 doubtful	No.
Molesworth ...	One Pump from Well: Spring	One sufficient	Good ...	No.
Bythorn ...	One Well	sufficient	Good ...	No.
Keyston ...	One Pump and Well	sufficient	Good ...	No.
Wennington ...	One Pump from Well	insufficient	Not Good	No.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—Rivers and Streams are protected by filter beds and septic tanks in some cases, and the latter are insisted on in new buildings.

In most cases the pail system of sanitation exists.



It is probable that a drainage scheme for Brampton will have to be undertaken in the not very distant future.

**Closet Accommodation.**—In new houses 8 W.C.'s have been constructed and 20 E.C.'s; 4 new E.C.'s and 5 W.C.'s have been constructed for old property.

**Scavenging.**—Public Scavenging has been provided at Brampton since 1908, it includes removal of refuse and pumping out of cesspools; the material is disposed of on the land.

Occupiers do this elsewhere, but not always satisfactorily, especially where there is little land attached to the house.

Tins and bottles are collected in many parishes where complete scavenging appears unnecessary. This should be extended.

**Sanitary Inspection.**—There has been a house to house inspection of the whole area, the particulars of which are contained in the Sanitary Inspector's Report appended.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To J. R. GARROOD, ESQ.

ALCONBURY HILL,  
24/2/38.

Herewith is summary of work caused to be done during 1937.

Total No. of Inspections made ... ..				238
Notices served ... ..				116
(Informal 98      Statutory 18)				
Complaints received ... ..			Total No. of ... ..	17
Premises, houses, etc. ... ..			No. inspected ... ..	1900
			Nuisances abated ... ..	201
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse ... ..			No. inspected ... ..	All
			Nuisances abated ... ..	28
Animals improperly kept ... ..			No. inspected ... ..	Nil
			Nuisances abated ... ..	Nil
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ... ..			No. inspected ... ..	All
			Nuisances abated ... ..	29
Drain, drain-traps, etc., etc. ... ..			No. inspected ... ..	All
			Nuisances abated ... ..	39
House, or part thereof, overcrowded ... ..			No. inspected ... ..	Nil
			Nuisances abated ... ..	Nil
Smoke nuisances ... ..			No. of observations ... ..	Nil
			Nuisances abated ... ..	Nil
Offensive accumulations ... ..			No. inspected ... ..	5
			Nuisances abated ... ..	5
Other sanitary conditions ... ..			No. inspected ... ..	Nil
			Nuisances abated ... ..	Nil

Lodging houses	...	...	...	...	No. registered	...	...	Nil
					<b>No. of inspections</b>	...	...	Nil
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	No. licensed or registered	...	...	11
					<b>No. of inspections</b>	...	...	112
Offensive trades (sec. 112 P. Health Act, 1875)	...	...	...	...	No. established	...	...	Nil
					No. of inspections	...	...	Nil
Canal boats	...	...	...	...	No. registered	...	...	Nil
					No. of inspections	...	...	Nil
					No. with infectious diseases on board	...	...	Nil
Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	...	...	No. houses condemned	...	...	Nil
					No. closed	...	...	Nil
					No. cleaned & limewashed	...	...	Nil
Food—seizures of unwholesome	...	...	...	...	No. of	...	...	Nil
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	Houses affected with	...	...	33
					Houses inspected	...	...	23
					No. of inspections	...	...	40
					Houses disinfected	...	...	3
					Schools disinfected	...	...	Nil
					Disinfectant used	Formalin	and Cresol	
					Lots of clothing disinfected	...	...	Nil
					<b>Lots of clothing destroyed</b>	...	...	Nil
Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	New provided	...	...	Nil
					No. repaired	...	...	Nil
					No. converted to pails	...	...	8
					No. converted to W.C.'s	...	...	Nil
Pail or earth closets	...	...	...	...	New provided	...	...	40
					No. converted to W.C.'s	...	...	1
Water closets	...	...	...	...	New provided	...	...	13
					No. supplied with water	...	...	13
Ashpits	...	...	...	...	New provided	...	...	Nil
					No. converted to ashbins	...	...	Nil
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	New provided	...	...	4
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	Samples taken for analysis	...	...	1
					Samples condemned	...	...	Nil
					Wells closed	...	...	Nil
					Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	12
					Public supply substituted for well or pond	...	...	Nil
					Cisterns cleaned, repaired, covered	...	...	Nil
					Waste pipes disconnected from drain	...	...	Nil
Housing, etc., Act, 1909	...	...	...	...	No. houses closed	...	...	Nil
					No. houses made habitable	...	...	Nil
					No. houses demolished	...	...	Nil
Building Bye Laws adopted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1903
Total Legal Proceedings—								
					<i>i.e.</i> Summonses, etc.	...	...	Nil
					Convictions	...	...	Nil

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Workshops	...	...	...	...	Total No. on register	...	...	36
					(including bakehouses)	...	...	
					No. in which nuisances abated	...	...	Nil

Bakehouses ... ..	No. on register ... ..	11
	No. in which nuisance abated ... ..	Nil
Home Work ... ..	No. of outworkers ... ..	Nil
	No. of houses ... ..	Nil
	No. of infected houses ... ..	Nil
Legal Proceedings—		
<i>i.e.</i> Summonses, etc.	... ..	Nil
Convictions	... ..	Nil
J. R. GARRGOD, <i>Medical Officer of Health.</i>	W. MIDWOOD, <i>Sanitary Inspector.</i>	

**Bugs.**—I do not think there are any bed bugs in the district.

**Schools.**—Closure has been effected by the School Medical Officer. The sanitary condition is satisfactory. Water supplies are fairly satisfactory.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses in the year.*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	1900
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	238
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included) under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	12
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	18
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	6
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation) ... ..	6

### 2. *Remedy of defects without Services of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	201
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :

(a) by owners ... .. 3

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... .. 1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 13

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) by owners ... .. 16

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... .. 0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. 4

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... .. 0

4. *Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.*

A.—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... .. 19

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 19

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 138

B.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. 3



C.—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	9
(2) Number of persons concerned in such		62
D.—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..	0
E.—Any other particulars	... ..	—

It will be seen that the action against bad housing conditions which was begun in 1930 has been continued. In some instances reconditioning has been performed on the owners' own initiative, in others after notices under Section 9 or 11 had been served. There is a moderate number of empty houses, but these are chiefly at lodges, and are tied cottages to the farms of which they form part.

While there are a number of old houses, actual slum conditions are not common. Many of the older types make up for their defects by the size of the rooms, the excellence of the gardens, the thickness of the walls, and from the tenant's point of view, the smallness of the rent; thus leaving a bigger margin for other things.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—Inspection of Farms and Dairies under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, is made both as part of the routine inspection and otherwise. Education of the personnel is of the greatest importance, as is the prevention of complete failure of milk supply in isolated parts of the district. A sustained effort to educate seems to be meeting with some success and floors and buildings have improved.

The Sanitary Inspector and County Veterinary Officer have made joint inspections also.

In some isolated cottages fresh milk is not used, as it is not readily available.



## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
No. Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	232
No. of Inspections during Milking Time	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Have Regulations been adopted?	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Yes

Premises with Well Water Supply—

No. of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
No. of, from which water analysed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
No. Inspection of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107

February 24th, 1938.

W. MIDWOOD, Sanitary Inspector.

(b) MEAT.—Slaughter-houses and meat are inspected as part of the routine inspection and frequently by the Sanitary Inspector.

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed if known	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ... ..	165	5	3	423	387
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned ... ..	1	1	—	—	3
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	1.21	20	—	—	.77
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	1	—	7
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	3.03	—	33.3	—	1.83

BAKEHOUSES.—All inspected and found generally to be clean and satisfactory.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Chicken Pox has been the only infectious disease prevalent, on the whole it has been very mild.

Diphtheria Antitoxin and Anti-Tetanic Serum is obtainable free from the Council and is kept at Huntingdon Police Station.

There has been no opportunity of providing artificial immunisation.

Premises exposed to infection are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

The following table shows the number of cases of some of the commoner Infectious Diseases during the period :—

			Cases.	Death.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Small Pox	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	—	2
Diphtheria	...	...	2	—	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	2	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	13	4	—
Erysipelas	...	...	4	—	1

**Blindness** is dealt with by the Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind, and good work has been done in the area.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—No Cases.

**Tuberculosis.**—The following table gives the particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, and deaths from the disease in the area in 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 up	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Total	5	2	1	1	5	1	—	—

Notification is efficient generally.









